

Success

BMR
Rural Job Training

Joseph Hunt: Working in Rural Alaska

Joseph Hunt of Kotlik is earning a living while learning a trade as he helps to build the Regional Headquarters for the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Regional Housing Authority in Bethel. Hunt is training as an apprentice to become a Building Maintenance Repairer (BMR) Technician. Hunt has been trained to work on a wide range of construction tasks such as carpentry, painting, plumbing and electrical.

Hunt is just the kind of trained professional that Regional Housing Authorities (RHA) need to build, maintain, repair and renovate affordable housing and public buildings in rural Alaska. Hunt is currently working on the AVCP Regional Headquarters Building - a \$13.5 million, 33,000 square foot facility made of state-of-the-art materials and systems. To date, the project has employed more than 100 workers, keeping over \$600,000 of wages in the community. Over the past decade AVCPRHA has employed over 700 local workers who have earned more than \$84.6 million building, renovating and weatherizing homes.

Hunt was selected by AVCP to work on the new Regional Headquarters through a program requiring the mechanical sub-contractor to hire an AWP BMR apprentice and provide on-the-job training as a plumber. He is employed by Western Mechanical and is learning how to install piping and put in a heating system. He is mentored by a journeyman plumber.

“Joseph has shown initiative, a good work ethic, and dedication,” said Glenn Watson, Apprentice Coordinator for the AVCPRHA.

Hunt hopes to advance his career by transitioning from the BMR apprenticeship into the Plumbers and Pipefitters 5-year apprentice program to become a highly skilled journeyman. Hunt knows there is a demand in rural Alaska for licensed plumbers and if he learns the trade he can have a great career.

“Joseph certainly has the aptitude and is well suited for this,” said Sean Randle, Western Mechanical’s jobsite foreman. “He works hard and is eager to learn.”

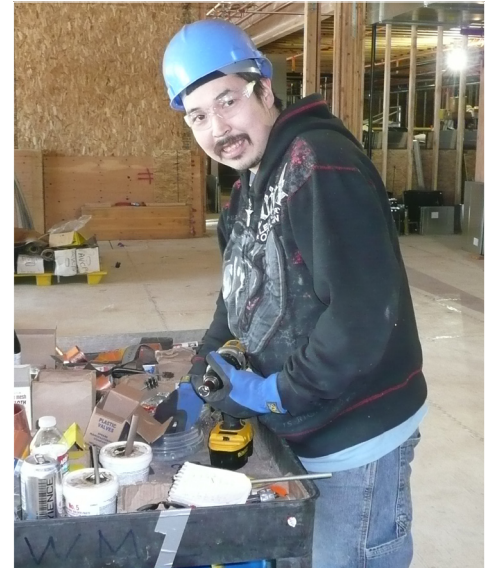
Hunt said he appreciates the opportunity to earn a living for his family while he trains for a life-long career. He’s good at what he does and enjoys the challenge of learning a trade.

“I’d recommend this training to other people. I’m glad to be working,” Hunt said.

Ron Hoffman, CEO of AVCPRHA along with Joe Killeen, Vice President of Development, emphasized the importance of training up a workforce that includes skilled workers like Joseph Hunt.

“We are all impressed by the dedication and desire to learn shown by all apprentices enrolled in the BMR program,” Killeen said. “The construction of our Headquarters Building here in Bethel is no better showcase proving how important a program like Alaska Works Partnership is to the economic health of our region.”

BMR Apprenticeship training is paid for in part by the Denali Commission Training Fund.



Joseph Hunt works on the new regional headquarters for AVCP Rural Housing Authority in Bethel.

